

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 /077 W

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R 031515Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6180

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN "DEFENSE" OF NEW AGREEMENT

1. EGYPTIAN MEDIA, CLEARLY PROCEEDING UNDER FAIRLY DETAILED GOE GUIDANCE, HAVE EMBARKED ON SPIRITED CAMPAIGN OF PRAISE FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S COURAGE AND FORESIGHT IN ACHIEVING SECOND STAGE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT. LOCAL MEDIA TREATMENT WILL NO DOUBT READ TO MANY ARABS MORE LIKE AN APOLOGIA FOR AN "EGYPT FIRST" POLICY AND NOT AT ALL LIKE THE "ARAB" DIPLOMATIC VICTORY WHICH SADAT SAYS HE HAS ACHIEVED.

2. THEMES STRESSED BY LOCAL PRESS YESTERDAY AND TODAY INCLUDE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. AGREEMENT IS NOT PEACE TREATY, BUT IS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD EGYPT'S TWIN GOALS OF OBTAINING TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. NEXT STEP (GOLAN) WILL FOLLOW SOON.

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B. EGYPT GETS BACK OIL FIELDS

C. ISRAELIS MUST WITHDRAW UP TO 55 KILOMETERS AND MAINTAIN 355 KILOMETER LINE OF DEFENSE. IT IS TREASON NOT TO TAKE BACK EVEN A "HAND SPAN" OF ARAB TERRITORY WHEN POSSIBILITY ARISES.

D. CANAL AND CANAL CITIES NOW SECURE.

E. GOE HAS EXPLAINED TO USG THAT PLO MUST PARTICIPATE IN PEACE MAKING, PARTICULARLY AT GENEVA.

3. ONLY AHAM (SEPT 3) MAKES STRIKING ADDITIONAL POINT THAT CANAL TOLLS FROM ISRAEL BOUND SHIPS WILL GO TO FINANCE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

4. EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATS ARE BEING GEARED UP IN ARAB WORLD TO SPREAD ABOVE MESSAGE TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. VP MUBARAK'S MISSION TO DAMASCUS AND RIYADH TO EXPLAIN BENEFITS OF AGREEMENT IS WIDELY PUBLICIZED. SADAT HIMSELF HAS ALREADY BRIEFED LOCAL EDITORS AND WILL "LAY THE FACTS" BEFORE A JOINT ASU-PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SESSION EVENING OF SEPT 4.

5. IN SHORT, EGYPTIAN PROPAGANDA MACHINE IS AT FULL STEAM. SO FAR, EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON POSITIVE PROPAGANDA. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE ATTEMPT DIRECTLY TO REPLY TO SUCH SPECIFIC PALESTINIAN CHARGES AS REPORTED BEIRUT'S 10973, EG. THAT AGREEMENT IS DESIGNED SPLIT ARABS, STRIKE AT PLO, REPRESENTS US "IMPERIALIST" INVASION, AND IS FRUIT OF SAUDI-EGYPTIAN CONSPIRACY. GOE, HOWEVER, IS IN TOUGH MOOD. PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN TOLD EGYPTIAN PATIENCE IS LIMITED. IF PLO PERSISTS IN ATTACKING GOE, EVEN IF ONLY BY INDIRECT ATTACK ON USG "IMPERIALIST" INTENTIONS, GOE WILL REPLY PUBLICLY AND VIGOROUSLY.

6. IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE HOW EGYPTIAN PUBLIC WILL ASSESS AGREEMENT. CERTAINLY THERE WILL BE DISAPPOINTMENT THAT EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES ARE NOT MOVING MUCH FURTHER EAST. GENERALLY, HOWEVER, WE EXPECT AGREEMENT WILL BE POPULAR HERE. EGYPTIANS BELIEVE THEY HAVE DONE THEIR BIT FOR PALESTINIANS AND WILL NOT ENJOY PUBLIC CASTIGATION FROM PLO FOR WHOM, SO EGYPTIANS BELIEVE, EGYPT HAS SUFFERED SO MUCH ALREADY.

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EILTS

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